

fectly safe to follow them on wheat and corn lands; but we possess, as yet, no information as to its effects on tobacco lands. Reasoning from analogy, no mischief can be apprehended from the use of marl on these as on other lands; but in order to direct its proper application, as to *quantity* especially, we should be aided by at least a few positive results. It is hoped that the efforts made to interest the planters of this part of Prince George's county in the subject, will soon supply this desideratum.

Charles county, also, is abundantly supplied with marl. A great deposit of fossil shells, similar in character to that at Fort Washington, occurs between Pye's landing and Indian-head, stretching across Cornwallis neck to the Mattawoman. A partial application of the material from this locality, is said to have been made to the soil above it by the former proprietor of the landing, and report states that it proved very serviceable; yet it was discontinued. We have the assurance from the present owner, Mr. John Pye, that it shall not be any longer neglected. The banks of the Potomac, from what are termed the Blue banks along Wade's bay to Smith's point, exhibit likewise one continuous deposit of fossil shells from thirty to forty feet above tide. Nos. 46 and 47 indicate the analyses of these marls.

South of the Mattawoman, and embracing the large tract of land between it and Port Tobacco river, the diluvial formation composed of gravel, sand and clay, having a depth of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet, rests upon a great bed of *blue marl*, possessing very remarkable characters. Subjected to analysis, it proves not to be rich in calcareous particles, but it frequently contains *potash* as one of its constituents, by which it becomes assimilated to the green marl, so called, of New Jersey and Virginia, known to possess very fertilizing properties, although frequently without a trace of lime; as was ascertained by Professor Rogers of William and Mary college. The analyses of these marls are given at Nos. 48 to 53 of the table. It may be well to remark, that the parcels submitted to analysis were obtained under quite unfavorable circumstances, being mostly the superior water-worn portions of beds thus uncovered at the bottom of ravines, and made known during our examinations of the past year. A transient inspection of these deposits led to suspect that at a greater depth, their contents would be found more valuable—inasmuch as they might be expected to yield a larger quantity of fossil shells, which by their disin-